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WASHINGTON

NLK-75-122 #1
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MANDATORY REVIEW

CASE # NLK-88-68

DOCUMENT # 1

TO: Mr. Komer

Bob:

When I was in RAND I yielded to no one in pointing out that placement of Jupiters in soft configuration in Italy and Turkey in response to Sputnik I was military and deterrence nonsense.

I have not changed my mind. However, once the missiles were emplaced, and especially in light of Cuba, the dominant criteria has become the political and psychological role these weapons play in the host countries and in relation to the free world alliance structure.

The attached memorandum may have been overtaken by events and, in any case, I doubt the Secretary would sign off on its tone knowing the President's strong inclination. Yet I feel strongly--more strongly than on any single problem since I returned to government--that precipitate attempts to obtain removal of these weapons would do the US great damage. It would, in addition to all the points made in the memo, drive the Europeans toward creating independent, unintegrated nuclear capabilities beyond our control.

An adequate review and presentation of all the facts and possible consequences is an absolute obligation of any staff. The transmittal memo to Alex Johnson indicates that we also want to be as constructive as possible in helping achieve the President's objective of getting the damn things off the scene.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDO/MR

REVIEWED by J.D. STODART DATE 6/23/88

Jeffrey C. Kitchen

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